

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, comprising:

melting a high-purity copper having a total unavoidable impurity content of not more than 1 ppm by mass in a carbon crucible installed in a vacuum;

replacing an atmosphere surrounding the melted copper by an argon gas atmosphere and adding 1.0 to 5.0% by mass of silver having a purity of not less than 99.99% by mass to said copper;

casting said copper with silver added thereto in a carbon mold into a wire rod; and

drawing said wire rod to a diameter of not more than 0.08 mm.

13. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 12, further comprising:

adding, to said copper, 0.01 to 0.5% by mass of magnesium having a purity of not less than 99.9% by mass.

14. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 12, further comprising:

adding, to said copper, 0.01 to 0.3% by mass of indium having a purity of not less than 99.99% by mass.

15. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 12, further comprising:

pickling said high-purity copper prior to said melting in said carbon crucible.

16. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 13, further comprising:

pickling said high-purity copper prior to said melting in said carbon crucible.

17. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 14, further comprising:

pickling said high-purity copper prior to said melting in said carbon crucible.

18. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 12, wherein said casting is continuous.

19. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 13, wherein said casting is continuous.

20. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 14, wherein said casting is continuous.

21. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 12, wherein said carbon crucible consists of carbon.

22. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 12, wherein said carbon mold consists of carbon.

23. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 21, further comprising:

adding, to said copper, 0.01 to 0.5% by mass of magnesium having a purity of not less than 99.9% by mass.

24. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 22, further comprising:

adding, to said copper, 0.01 to 0.5% by mass of magnesium having a purity of not less than 99.9% by mass.

25. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 21, further comprising:

pickling said high-purity copper prior to said melting in said carbon crucible.

26. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 22, further comprising:

pickling said high-purity copper prior to said melting in said carbon crucible.

27. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 21, further comprising:

adding, to said copper, 0.01 to 0.3% by mass of indium having a purity of not less than 99.99% by mass.

28. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 22, further comprising:

adding, to said copper, 0.01 to 0.3% by mass of indium having a purity of not less than 99.99% by mass.

29. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 21, wherein said casting is continuous.

30. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 22, wherein said casting is continuous.

31. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 23, further comprising:

pickling said high-purity copper prior to said melting in said carbon crucible.

32. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an ultrafine copper alloy wire, according to claim 23, wherein said casting is continuous.